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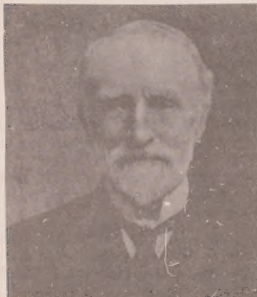


1959

VOLUME VI NUMBER 10

Warrenton High School — Warrenton, Oregon — February 14, 1959

PRICE 10¢



Mr. D. K. Warren



Mrs. D. K. Warren

## Salute To Our Founders

Daniel Warren, in 1870 traded J. W. Wallace and J. G. Truller a 100 foot square lot at the present site of the Columbia Oil Company plant in Astoria for 160 acres of land. This is now part of Warrenton. The land was mostly under water so Chinese laborers were imported by Mr. Warren. They built by hand about two and one half miles of dikes, reclaiming 1500 acres of land. The original dikes have been improved, but are standing just as they were built in 1878.

The City of Warrenton was laid out in 1891, on a tract of land covering 52 acres, and was incorporated in 1899.

Mr. Warren sent to Illinois for 1000 sapling trees, which he planted and named the streets after them. Some of these trees are still standing along Main street.

Previous to this, in 1848, a town called Lexington had been laid out. Its area, roughly, was from the present School Road to the railroad track by the high school, and from the Skipanon, westward a few blocks. The town did not progress so in 1888 the final petition to vacate it was granted. Meanwhile a community was growing up around Skipanon Landing. There was a hotel, library, post office, and stores. So

in 1888, Lexington became Skipanon and was so known until 1913, when the citizens voted to be annexed by Warrenton.

Transportation methods changed with the years. The "Indian's Highway" was a water route via the Skipanon. Travelers from Astoria to Seaside went by boat to Warren's Landing or Skipanon Landing, depending on the tide, and from there changed to stage coach.

—WHS—

## A Fight To Exist

Warrenton's first newspaper was started in 1896. It was called the **Port Oregon Tribune** and came out every Friday. John S. Dellinger was the editor of this Republican paper, which was suspended in 1906.

Warrenton's second paper was the **News**, founded in 1915 by E. H. Flagg.

The Warrenton **Argus** began in 1925. The following year, the **News** and **Argus** combined into one paper using the **Argus** name. The paper was abandoned in 1929.

The town was without a paper until 1954. Then the **Columbia Beacon** began its short-lived career. It was discontinued in 1957, being Warrenton's last newspaper in circulation.

## Pioneer School Paves Way For New

Bud Colby's Texaco Service Station rests on the exact site of Warrenton's first school, the Skipanon, built in 1867.

Miss Minnie Hess was the school's first teacher and later Mr. George Grant.

When the Morrison school was erected on Clatsop Plains in 1914, the Skipanon was discontinued.

Pioneers in this area refer frequently to the "big" and "little" schools. Although the "little" school is no longer standing, the "big" school is still in existence, serving as the present Church of Christ in Warrenton.

The consolidating of the "big" and "little" schools resulted in the construction of the present Warrenton Grade School in 1915.

When the need for a high school came about, the grade school was divided into two parts; the upper for the high school use, and the lower for grade school.

The late Mr. David E. Pease willed the land where Warrenton High School is now located to School District No. 2 in hopes that a seminary, bearing his name, (continued on page 2)

## Dedication . . .

This being a special edition of our school paper, we take great pleasure in dedicating it to Vice President, Richard Nixon who will be visiting this area on February 14th, Oregon's 100th birthday.

We of the Smoke Signal Staff are proud of our state and in compiling this issue we have learned more than ever to appreciate the Pioneers of our hometown.

—WHS—

## Mayor Gramson Issues Proclamation

Whereas February 14, 1959 is being celebrated throughout Oregon as the birthday of Oregon's Statehood, and whereas Warrenton's history is part of the early history of Oregon, and whereas Warrenton should take full part in the festivities of the coming Centennial as its rightful place dictates, now, I, as Mayor, proclaim February 14 as a special day for the citizens of Warrenton and urge them to commemorate this event as seems most fitting and especially join with friends and neighbors to share in its spirit and pride.



Skipanon School, one of the first built in Warrenton area.





## Excerpts From A Warrenton Scrapbook

Here are some of the items taken from Asv. Sigurdson's yearbook, which recorded events from 1888 until 1936. Mr. Sigurdson passed away in January 1937.

He was the founder of Warrenton Clam Co., and later operated boats on the lower Columbia River, carrying passengers and freight between the cities of Astoria, Hammond and Warrenton.

The time of departure and arrival was different each day because the schedule had to be according to the tide. The water became so shallow at the mouth of the Skipanon during low tide, one had to figure to be at the mouth of the river about 3 hours before or after low tide in order to prevent the boat from sticking in the mud. Many a "pioneer" has had to sit patiently in a boat for about six hours if it got stuck on the mud as the tide was ebbing.

In 1918, work began on dredging a ship channel into Warrenton. Bonds of \$200,000 were sold for bulkheads. By 1919, the work had progressed as far as the railroad bridge. In 1923 foreign ships as well as our own were loading lumber here. Three sawmills were running.

On December 31, 1927, the Kelly mill burned down.

—WHS—

## Our State Park Beachcombers Paradise

Thousands and thousands of people come year around to enjoy the activities of Fort Stevens State Park. This beautiful land of recreation became a state park in 1956. Today, it is one of Oregon's most popular.

Included in the park is Coffenburg Lake and the famous Peter Iredale shipwreck. Sunning and relaxing on the sun-warmed beach is relaxing. Clamming and beachcombing are favorite sports.

Coffenburg Lake is featured with all kinds of activities such as swimming, boating, fishing, overnight camping, and picnicking.

Near the park are other interests. Fort Stevens, used during the Civil War, was also active in both World Wars. The old Battery Russell is a main attraction in Fort Stevens. Japanese shells fell near here in June of 1942, during World War II.



The Peter Iredale as it looked the day it went aground.

## Old Landmarks Crumble

Early in the morning of October 25, 1906, the Peter Iredale went ashore on the sands off Clatsop Beach.

About 2 a.m. in the morning, Captain H. Lawrence, master of the British ship, picked up the Tillamook Light and immediately ordered that sails be set. They would wait at the mouth of the Columbia for the pilot who was to pick them up that afternoon.

Without even a slight warning, a strong wind and current came and in no time the Iredale found herself among the breakers, pounding into the sand.

Point Adams lifesaving crew and soldiers of Fort Stevens caught sight of the distress signals sent by the crippled ship. In no time both

groups took action as they moved their rescue equipment to the scene of the wreck.

A surf boat picked up the captain and his crew of twenty men. It was a miracle that no one was killed by the falling masts and debris that fell as the large ship dug into the sands of the beach.

This interesting and historical landmark still remains in the sand, after being beaten by the pounding surf and wind for over half a century. It is visited yearly by thousands of people and is a feature of Fort Stevens State Park. Some day the rusty remains of the Iredale will crumble into the sea, but at the present date her rotting mast still points to the sky.

—WHS—

## Pioneer Church Attracts Many

The Clatsop Plains Pioneer Presbyterian Church draws much attention, due to the fact that it is the first Presbyterian church in Oregon and west of the Rocky Mountains. It is located on Clatsop Plains. This famous church was organized in September, 1846.

There is a cemetery behind the church and only pioneers are buried there.

—WHS—

## QUIZ—WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT WARRENTON?

1. When was the first railroad built through Warrenton?

2. Where was the first post office located?
3. Warrenton has the distinction of being one of the few towns in the U. S. that was under enemy fire during what war?
5. For what was Miss Clara C. Munson nationally known?
6. The Prouty Lumber & Box Co. was started in what year?
7. When was the Warrenton Library founded?
8. In what year was the original Clatsop Plains Presbyterian Church destroyed during a severe wind storm?
9. When did the founder of Warrenton die?
10. How many cars were in Warrenton by 1918?

ANSWERS: Page 4



Football Player of Early Days

## Looking Back At Sports

### Football 1924

Warrenton was 16 players strong in 1924. Not having enough men they could not have any scrimmages, but still this team was one of the best. In eight games they won five and lost two plus a lone tie.

The Warriors defeated Knappa 3-0 and 30-0, Vernonia by a 34-0 count, Clatskanie 47-0 and 13-6. Losses were to Amity 12-3, a game in which the Warriors were outweighed 20 pounds per man, and to Seaside 6-0 in the final two minutes of play. The tie, believe it or not, was with ASTORIA. Warrenton dominated the game but were unable to score.

### Basketball Scores

#### Ten Years Ago—1949

These Warriors took the District 9 championship and then went on to the state tournament only to lose two close games and be eliminated. Note some of the scores: Warriors 37, Seaside 32; Warriors 52, Astoria 12; Warriors 73, Nehalem 39; Warriors 70, Jewell 12; and Warriors 74, Clatskanie 44.

—WHS—

## COMPARATIVE PRICES OF YESTERYEAR

1949	1994
\$65.00 FLOUR per barrel	\$3.50
10.00 OVERALLS	.50
1.00 BACON pound	.15
3.00 COFFEE	.25
3.00 EGGS	.20
1.00 TOBACCO per plug	.15
25.00 CANNED PEACHES	.15

Taken from newspaper clippings in the 1890s.

## Pioneers In Petticoats

"Howdy Padnah!" seems to be the correct greeting now adays with the Centennial coming on. Even the girls are beginning to get into the swing of things with their long dresses and Indian costumes. Along with the making of these dresses comes thoughts of long ago when they were the latest style, and also the thoughts of the pioneer women tramping through the dust and grime behind their prairie schooners. Imagine the Indian raids, cattle stampedes, rattlesnakes, and the terrible back-breaking work. The question asked by our "Warrenton Belles" of today is, "How could they have possibly stood all that hardship?" The bare facts are, they enjoyed it.

They were surrounded by men who were glad to help the little ladies out. What woman wouldn't enjoy herself with 20 or 30 flattering men to wait on her. Actually all that she had to do was cook and wash her clothes. After dinner as they gathered around the fire, where was our little prairie flower? Why, of course, sitting cozily by the fire, surrounded by men singing and telling jokes just for her. Oh, girls, too bad dotting gentlemanly manners of yesterday couldn't have been inherited by our wild Warrenton buckeroos of today. But that's life!

—WHS—

Have you ever wondered how the creek winding under bridges and through Warrenton ever got its name? In the days of the Lewis and Clark, this creek was called Skipanarwin Creek, which means Snake in the Indian language of this area. The name was shortened to Skipanon River in April, 1925.

—WHS—

Mrs. Huna Wilson Recalls

## Teenagers Of Yesterday

One of the favorite pastimes of the young folks was to charter a boat at the Skipanon River and go off on a moonlight excursion, perhaps to Sand Island or Ilwaco, Washington. There we would build a huge bonfire of driftwood on the beach and have our pot luck supper. It was fun to sit around and tell ghost stories and play games and sing.

Upon our return home on one of these occasions, our boat got stuck at the mouth of the Skipanon. We stayed there until four o'clock in the morning waiting for the tide to come in. There were quite a few worried parents!

Another pleasure was to go to the beach on a hay wagon pulled by two or four horses. We would plan to have a clam bake, but often forgot to check the tides and were unable to get clams because of high tide.

In 1910 a particularly large group went on one of these rides to the beach where we got an unobstructed view of Halley's Comet. It was very brilliant with its fiery tail seeming brighter than ever. My younger brother was awakened that night to see the comet. It will return in 1985, so there is a possibility that he will see it for the second time.

—WHS—

One day in 1923 there came a tide which brought in millions of living clams one-half to one inch in length, which covered the beach for several days. An item from an early paper relates that a storm followed and once again the beach was washed clear of these tiny clams.

—WHS—



The Galena washed ashore a few hundred feet from the Iredale.

## Pacific Graveyard Holds Many Secrets

There have been many ships wrecked along the beach in the vicinity of the Peter Iredale.

Within three weeks of the Iredale wreck, a British bark called "Galena" took her turn in the 'Pacific Graveyards'. This was on the night of November 13, 1906.

The Galena was also waiting for a pilot to pick her up at the mouth of the river. By getting too close to the shore, the surf had carried her upon the beach, 200 feet from the Iredale. There was no loss of life. A chance to salvage her was lost, when the stormy season came along. Sand built up around her and in a few years, she completely disappeared beneath the sand.

—WHS—

ANSWERS: (Warrenton History)

1. 1901.
2. On the site of I. Nygaard's home on the Skipanon River.
3. In the Barlow Store.
4. World War II.
5. She was the first woman mayor West of the Rocky Mountains.
6. 1921.
7. 1930.
8. 1872.
9. 1903.
10. Five.

—WHS—

Frank Cook had the first garage in Warrenton. He sold gas out of a 50 gallon drum by means of a hand pump, at this time there were only 5 cars in Warrenton.

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Hoop Drill of Warrenton Girls in 1903